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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHAIRWOMAN LEA MÁRQUEZ PETERSON

June 7, 2022

RE: In the Matter of Inquiry into Commission Policies (Docket No. AU-00000A-16-0141)

My Fellow Commissioners:

For too long, there has been an information gap between the information members of the business community know about our future infrastructure needs and the information we, as members of the Arizona Corporation Commission, receive to make informed decisions that power and electrify our economy.

As commissioners, we often hear about projects after the fact. Yet, utility infrastructure such as electric, water, and gas are the foundation upon which our economy can grow. Laying this infrastructure is often the first step that must be taken before any project can break ground. If the Arizona Corporation Commission is in the dark about the projects that may be in the pipeline or the businesses that may be looking to expand or relocate to Arizona, it cannot make adequate decisions about the energy needs of Arizona and the impact to its economy.

Knowing which projects may be in the pipeline is essential to fulfilling our role as regulators. The construction of safe and reliable utility infrastructure upon which new business and housing development can thrive depends on us. As regulators of Arizona's regulated electric, water, and gas utilities, we need commissioners to have all the information they need to make an informed decision, as well as to trust but verify the claims they hear from utilities and stakeholders. To do this, we must close the information gap and provide a forward-looking view of our state's economy. We must have an opportunity to know about projects and economic activities before they are announced.

That is why, as Chairwoman of the Arizona Corporation Commission and a former president of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I am asking my fellow commissioners and leaders in the business community to help us close the information gap. At the Commission's next Regular Open Meeting on June 28, 2022, I plan to place an item on the agenda to institute a new, confidential briefing—an "Economic Preparedness Meeting"—to be held on an annual or quarterly basis, so we can hear from the top economists and business professionals in Arizona and be informed of the latest economic developments and future economic outlooks of our state.

It is my hope that all present and future commissioners will support me in closing the information gap and attend these confidential briefings for the benefit of the public, to assist us in the decision-making process, and to help our state lay the foundation upon which our economy can grow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lea Márquez Peterson".

Lea Márquez Peterson
Chairwoman

